Suitable notice including disciplinary action is taken against officials wherever necessary for dereliction of duty and deficiency. Section 43 does not stipulate any exemption.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Closure of M. I. T.

2562. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close the operations of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is likely to be replaced by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) for various research projects;

(b) if so, what are the details of termination of MIT in India;

(c) how many research projects were there in hand of MIT at the time of termination of their contract; and

(d) whether MIT was studying low cost rural communication system, world computer, tomorrow's tools and digital village, and if so, what would be the fate of these projects after the termination of their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) The collaboration between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and Media Lab Asia was not continued beyond March 31, 2003.

The Government has decided to continue the Media Lab Asia programme in a restructured form. Various research projects undertaken including those at the five IIT's at Chennai, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Mumbai will continue.

(b) During an internal review taken by the Government it was felt that there need not be an exclusive relationship with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and if a research group in-charge of a project feels that researchers in institution other than MIT can contribute more towards that particular project, he should be free to access that institution.

(c) Nine projects were undertaken through MIT at the time of discontinuation of the Collaboration.

(d) Four research themes identified by Media Lab Asia are given below :

— Bits for all : to provide low cost, high bandwidth wireless connectivity.

— World Computer : to develop affordable computing and communication access devices.

— Tomorrow's Tools : to develop sensors and interfaces for rural applications.

— Digital Village : to integrate the above technologies in village setting.

As mentioned above, the different research projects would continue at the respective IIT's and other Indian Institutions.

Capacity of Telephone Exchange

†2563. SHRI VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of the telephone exchange of Sector 19, Noida district Gautambudh Nagar;

(b) the capacity of the OCB and E-10-B telephone exchanges of Sector 18, Noida;

(c) the reasons for recovering charges of the bill at different rates from Sector 19 exchange at Noida to Network Exchanges;

(d) the details of the charging rentals on the basis of exchange capacity of Noida exchange by keeping telephone exchanges under Ghaziabad, Sikandarabad and Khurja SDCA;

(e) the name of exchanges which have been kept under Ghaziabad, Sikandarabad and Khurja (SDCA) and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the call pulse rates prescribed on residential phones, distance-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The capacity of the telephone exchange of Sector 19, Noida district Gautambudh Nagar is 47,750 lines.

(b) There is no exchange at Sector 18, Noida. It is being fed from Sector 19, which has E 10B, OCB 283 and EWSD exchanges of capacity 13000 lines, 7750 lines and 27000 lines respectively.

(c) Charges are being recovered in Sector 19, based on the capacity of Noida and Greater Noida system, which is more than 1 lakh lines.

(d) to (f) The details are given in Statements I, II and III respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.